

needed, in all earnestness, I repeat, let it be unhesitatingly rendered.

A CITIZEN OF NEW-YORK.  
New-York, Sunday, Feb. 8, 1874.

### THE SILENT POOR.

To the Editor of the New-York Times :

Your readers will be interested to know that the sums they have individually distributed among the teachers of the Industrial Schools for cases of honest and deserving poverty, have already done untold good. Widows without food or fuel in the house ; children staying bare-footed at home ; sick parents, who could not support their large families ; homes where starvation and utter destitution were staring the sufferers in the face, have been wisely relieved. We saw in the German School, near Avenue C, and in the school on the corner of Avenue C and Fourth street, yesterday, several sweet and honest little girls, who related how they had had no coal in the house, nor food to eat, till these little supplies came. They told their simple stories with tears. In another case, a woman had pawned everything, down to her wedding ring, for bread.

The names of these teachers are Miss Robertson, German School, Second street, near Avenue C, and Miss Blodgett, school corner of Avenue C and Fourth street. Again at the foot of East Eleventh street, near Avenue C, will be found another school with cases of extreme destitution, Miss Van Vorst, teacher. These are only a sample of others. In all these, we try to relieve in such a way that they shall not need alms hereafter. We are inducing the poor to save, teaching the sewing-machine, and getting all who will go, to the country. We do not help children if they refuse to go to school. We not too much trespassing on your space, we append again a list of the Industrial Schools.

Respectfully, C. L. BRACK,  
Secretary, Children's Aid Society, No. 19 East Fourth street.

Cottage Place School, No. 204 Bleecker street.  
East River School, No. 206 East Fortieth street.  
Hudson River School, No. 350 West Twenty-seventh street.  
Avenue B School, No. 607 East Fourteenth street.  
German School, No. 272 Second street.  
Italian School, No. 44 Franklin street.  
Lord School, No. 207 Greenwich street.  
Fifty-third Street School, No. 349 West Fifty-third street.  
Park School, Sixty-eighth street and Broadway.  
Fifty-second Street School, Fifty-second street, near Eleventh avenue.  
P'helps School, No. 335 East Thirty-fifth street.  
Newsboys' Evening School, No. 49 Park place.  
Girls' Industrial School, No. 120 West Sixteenth street.  
Fourth Ward School, No. 52 Market street.  
Fifth Ward School, No. 141 Hudson street.  
Avenue C School, No. 306 Fourth street.  
Eleventh Ward School, No. 709 East Eleventh street.  
Thirteenth Ward School, No. 327 Rivington street.  
Fourteenth Ward School, No. 93 Crosby street.  
Sixteenth Ward School, No. 211 West Eighteenth street.  
Water Street School, No. 14 Dover street.

### AID TO THE CENTENNIAL.

To the Editor of the New-York Times :

To the rule of frugality and strict economy in public expenditure, which most of all parties now accept, as to all general rules, there are notable exceptions. These exceptions occur when an exigency arises which does not admit of delay, but must be met and satisfied at once or never. When Congress, for instance, made an appropriation for the observation of the solar eclipse in the past, or of the transit of Venus in the immediate future, a suggestion of doubt or hesitation was not whispered. There could be no postponement, and there was no room for delay. The appropriation had to be made then and there, or not at all. Either America, as much interested as any other nation of the civilized world, was to put her hand in her pocket and bear her share of the expense, or submit to the shame of leaving the great work of scientific observation to other communities. Congress did not, we are proud to say, hesitate, and the appropriation was made.

The analogy of this to the exigency which now seems to arise in the matter of the approaching centennial commemoration of independence, is by no means a fanciful one. It makes itself plain to every candid mind in a way which cannot be mistaken, and should not be evaded. Just as the transit of the planet over the sun's disc must be noted on the 8th of December, 1874, or not again in our time, so the centenary of independence must be celebrated on the 4th of July, 1876, or not again within the generation of living men. It will not do in 1777 or '78, or even 1783, when Britain was pleased or forced to recognize independence as a fact. The little tinge of the grotesque which rests on our "Evacuation Day," would color any other centenary than the proper one. If thus it be inevitable—if it be now or never, I confess I cannot see how, if needed, Congress can or ought to refuse assistance. This, I am glad to see, was the pervading spirit the other day in the House of Representatives when the matter was broached, and this, I sincerely hope, will be the spirit to carry it through to a successful issue. The country will sustain a generous action on the part of Congress. The same feeling which burst into revolt when, out of an apparently redundant Treasury, Congress took its own pay, will find vent in thorough sympathy with the effort, from means less abundant, to do justice to a great sentiment.

It does seem that there can be no retreat without discredit. The first step was taken when the national charter was solicited and obtained; the next, when the President issued his proclamation. Now, I am quite aware that on the first of these occasions "caveats" from economical, unsentimental Senators were, as it were, filed, and something like conditions imposed as to future Federal action. But since that much has been done to render them inoperative. It, on obtaining the charter, the favored corporators had made no effort, of their own, had raised no money, aroused no local sentiment, and then come to Congress for assistance, all the warnings and cautions would have been properly recalled, and we should be tempted to say, "Better the centenary should pass out of existence unobserved than so gross an imposition be successful." Very, very far from this has been the action of these corporators. The course of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania has been really noble, and we should do injustice to the honest sympathies of New-York if we did not say so. The action, the organization, and the success of the initial movements have been wonderful. There has been no stint in municipal and individual contributions. There has been the wisest and strictest economy in disbursements. There has been the most tolerant and catholic recognition of the claims on the common heritage of other and distant communities. So liberal has been the local contribution that there is no shadow of the "*forma pauperis*" in the attitude of the centennial administration now. Indeed, so generous has the contribution been that, failing all else, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania are able and resolute to do this work themselves. They will do so. There is no earthly doubt of this. But this is not what the American people wish or ought to wish. It is not what New-York wishes. It must be a national work, and if, to make it so and avert its absolute failure, or, what is nearly as bad, its being localized, national assistance is